En Guuter Grischtdawy

fuun die

Pennsylfawnisch Deitch Lonndt

JESSE MASON

En Guuter Grischtdawg

A Good Christmas

To my good friend Klingt

Phil

Friede uf die Äiird

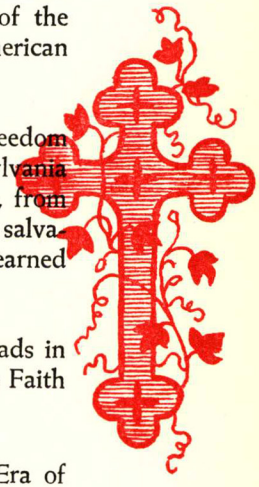
Peace on Earth

Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth Peace, Goodwill toward Men.

Luke 2:14

Today, America, the lone Rock of Christianity, stands firm while waves of hatred, misunderstanding and prejudice rise and beat against Her with increasing violence.

Never before has there been a greater need for Divine Guidance in seeking Peace among the peoples of the Earth, and the continuation of our own Blessed American Way of Life.



Nowhere are the twin Spirits of Peace and Freedom so well intrenched as in the hearts of the Pennsylvania Dutch; and, justly so, for their ancestors fought, from one end of the Colony to the other, to insure the salvation of America and the perpetuation of its hard earned Liberty.

On this Christmas Day they will bow their heads in reverence and renew, with all others, their supreme Faith in God and Country.

He, in Infinite Wisdom, has provided a New Era of inspired Leadership which may well point the way toward Peace and Goodwill throughout the greatly troubled World.

En Guuter Grischtdawg

Greetings

fuun die

Pennsylfawnisch Deitch Lonndt

uun

PHILIP HOLLINGER GLATFELTER

1952

A
Merry
Christmas
1864

En
Fraylicher
Grischtdawg 1864

Die Grischtdawg Bawm

The Christmas Tree

AMERICA can thank the Pennsylvania Dutch for our most colorful symbol of Yuletide—The Christmas Tree. The Tannenbaum of the Rhineland was familiar to these hardy pioneers who migrated from this region to settle in Penn's Land. Others came from Switzerland and the Alsace. It was only natural for them to bring along many of their much beloved customs.

Some say the Hessian soldiers of Revolutionary Days also helped to spread the idea of The Tree in the Colonies. Maybe so, for large numbers of these men remained to populate the Pennsylvania Dutch areas after the War was over. Homeland tradition helped them create a new and better way of life.

Evidently they chose the slim, lacy "Zad-re" or "Chunniber Bawn" (Cedar or Juniper tree), for it was the favored tree in the Pennsylvania Dutch Country for generations. During the early part of the Twentieth Century its popularity gave way to spruce, pine and fir, especially in large communities.

Cut weeks before the Holidays and shipped to market by tens of thousands these "store-bought" trees lose both natural color and their wonderful forest fragrance. Plenty of Juniper can be found today along fencelines and hedgerows of the well-kept York County farms.

The oldtime thrill of "Bringing in the Tree" is still a part of Holiday preparation in the countryside.

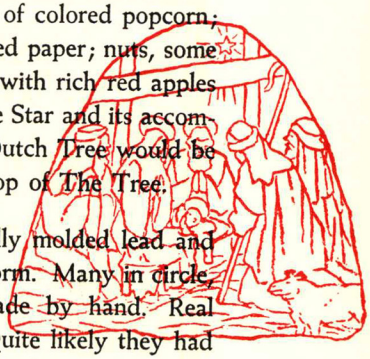
There a tree can be had for the asking. With it comes the Christmas blessing of the farmer. He is hard to wean from the customs of his forbears.

The true Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas Tree was dedicated to The Child and its spiritual message could not be overlooked. It was a Gift Tree and its simple decorations were dainty edibles.

The Christmas "Putz"

Bringing in the Tree

Cookies of every size and shape hung within easy reach of little hands. Gay festoons of colored popcorn; home-made chains of brightly colored paper; nuts, some gilded, others in shining foil, along with rich red apples gave added pleasure to the eye. The Star and its accompanying angel, without which no Dutch Tree would be complete, were placed at the very top of The Tree.

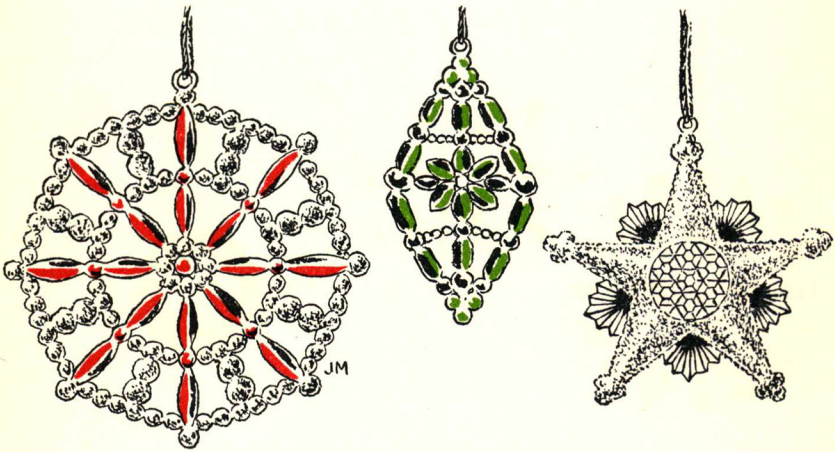


"For fancy" there were beautifully molded lead and glass ornaments. Some in star-like form. Many in circle, diamond and varied shapes all made by hand. Real treasures from the Old Country. Quite likely they had served generations long before adding their jewel quality to the Pennsylvania Dutch trees at Christmas.

Tiny baskets, canes and shepherds' crooks, even the curly pretzel, all made of red striped mint candy, were looped over branches in unexpected places waiting to be enjoyed by happy children. The very lovely molded red, blue and saffron glass balls made a great show in reflecting the tiny points of light from many wax candles.

One cannot imagine such a tree without its "putz." A marvelous under-tree decoration so dear to young and old. The manger, often referred to as "The Putz," is often used alone under The Tree but many times it is placed in the "yard" or Christmas Garden.

Today, all over Pennsylvania, The Christmas Tree assumes new practical duties as a decorative and profitable covering on waste or denuded lands.

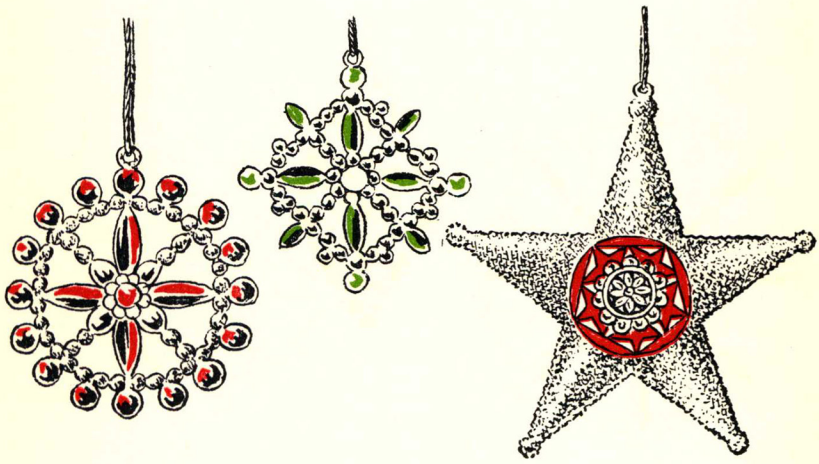


Christmas Tree Plantations are adding new beauty to an already beautiful State by helping retain moisture in the soil thereby giving life to Crowsfoot, Laurel and Ground Pine. They assist in sheltering Holly and Mistletoe. These fine Evergreens are made into handsome Christmas Wreaths and sold in all of the famous Dutch Farmers Markets.

The Plantations act as shelters in the preservation of wildlife. Under the supervision of expert foresters they are providing new sources for the growing of Holiday Decorations.

This activity of conservation and reforestation is a part of the great program to "Keep America Green."

Love of outdoor life and all of the joys that go with it are counted as blessings by the Pennsylvania Dutch.



Christmas Comes to Town

Indoors and out there are Trees, Trees and more Trees —the age-old symbols of Christmastide in the Pennsylvania Dutch Country.

One can sense their delight in the color and brilliance of their Community Decorations. Each town strives to have "The Best."

Die Babier-Engel

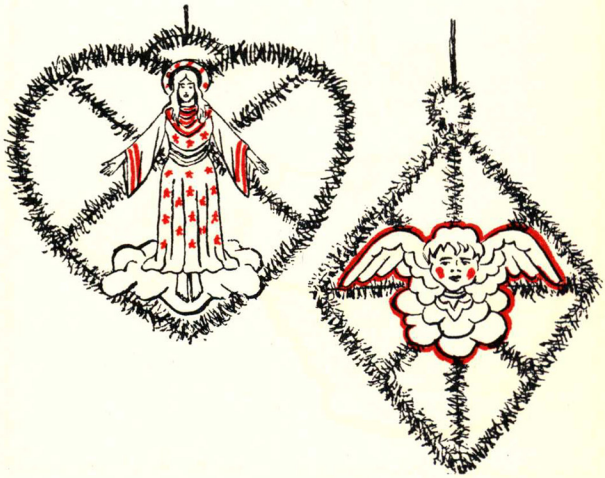
The Paper Angel

PAPER ANGELS in cutout and hand-drawn form were used in many ways for decorative purposes by the early Pennsylvania Dutch. Their utility was enhanced by establishment of Papermaking shortly after the founding of Pennsylvania in 1681. Following in the wake of this great craft came the Printing Press with its contribution to the culture of the young Republic in the form of books, pamphlets, tracts and the first American Bible in the German Language.

The gay decorations which gave life and color to dower chests, slipware and tin-plate took on new life when applied to paper. The older arts of Illuminating and Decorative Writing fared forth on House Blessings, Birth and Marriage Certificates. The unusual character of this latter handiwork has given them high place in the field of primitive American Graphic Art.

Angels have offered inspiration to countless artists for centuries. Tradition places the Star at the very tip-top of The Tree and the Christmas Angel directly under. Around the middle of the nineteenth century beautifully lithographed Angel cut-outs were imported from the Old Country and became very popular as Christmas decorations. Bought then for a few pennies, they are collectors' items today—and priceless.

Angels always bring visions of the Heavenly Choir to all of us at Christmas. In the Dutch Country the famed Singing Festivals will attract thousands of pilgrims and reflect their reverence for the Holy Day.



JM

Silent Night! Holy Night!

In hamlets and at crossroads voices will be raised in the deeply moving harmonies of "Stille Nacht." This great work of the little known German, Josef Mohr, is another Pennsylvania Dutch inheritance and their gift to all who pay homage to The Newborn King.

Sonndt Tart unn Springerle

Sand Tart and Springerle

CHRISTMAS COOKIES taste wonderful good! What Pennsylvania Dutch housewife would be without her bushel, or more, of these tasty Holiday dainties. Made by hand, too! Her written recipes brown with age; some going back eight or ten generations. Even the names of her best: Sand Tart, Springerle and Marzipan have a mouth-watering sound.

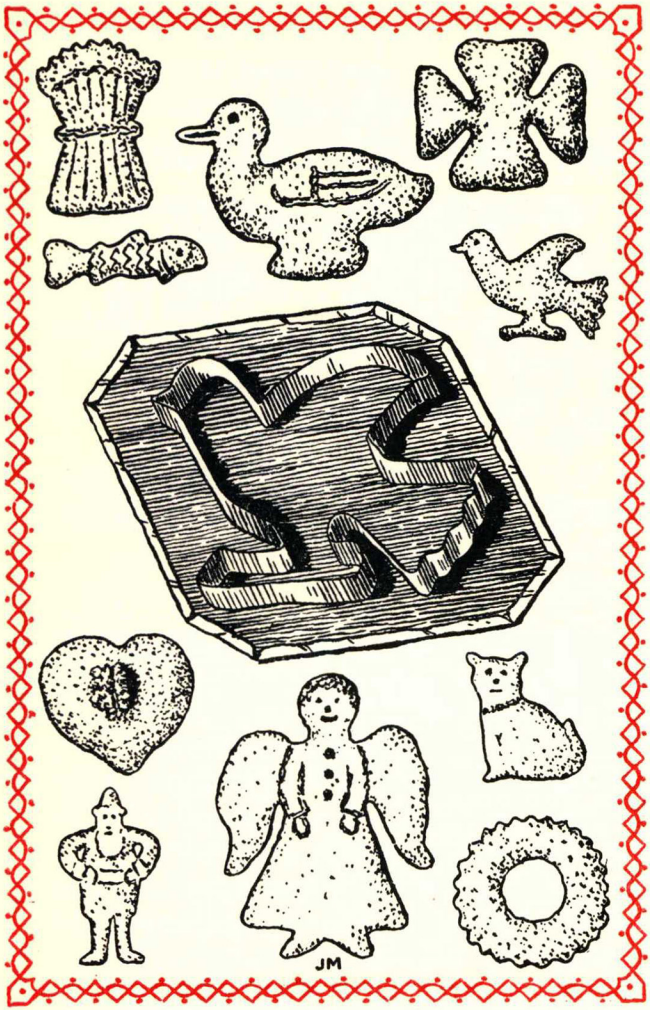
They are delightful to the Pennsylvania Dutchman whose well laden table is proof of his ability to produce and provide. The saying goes: "Them as works hard, eats hearty!"

Fortunate are those who have enjoyed the thrill of coming from Winter cold into the warmth and fragrance of a York County Kitchen just before Christmas. The big square coal range, black as night and shining with nickel gives a warm greeting all its own. You've heard the oft-repeated command of the busy housewife:

"Make the door shut, quick, so the good smells don't leak out!" Never forgotten are these perfumes of Christmas in Pennsylvania; cinnamon, cloves and allspice, citron and lemon, ginger, mint, vanilla and almond paste.

Getting Ready for Christmas

"Fire the stove up, once, and we make The Kuchen!" Remember the little cakes? Hearts, tulips, the birds and beasts, the fish and fowl? Stars, Angels and Santa himself? The old tin cutters which gave them shape are treasured by the housewife. She knows the lovely patterns have brought joy to children and elders for generations. Their outlines are as famous as the "hex marks" on the great Pennsylvania barns.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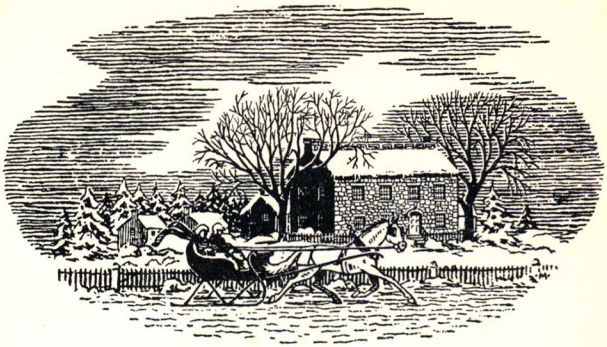
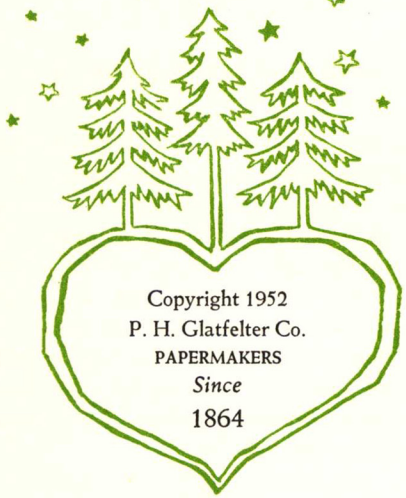


CHRISTMAS AT SPRING FORGE 1863

Grandfather Glatfelter's Christmas purchase of the small stone paper mill, on December 23, 1863 was the occasion for joyous celebration. It marked the beginning of the many happy Yuletides down through the years, not only for him and his direct descendants, but, also, for the nearly one thousand employees of today.

Their Pennsylvania Dutch heritage of pride in skilled craftsmanship is exceeded only by their heart-warming devotion to the sacred commemoration of the Nativity.

1000 copies of this Holiday Remembrance have been prepared by P. H. Glatfelter for distribution to his friends at Christmastide 1952



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